

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03

NSC-10 SS-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 SCI-06 EPA-04

CEQ-02 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 HEW-08 HUD-02

AGR-20 CIEP-02 CEA-02 STR-08 AF-10 AID-20 DRC-01 /269 W
----- 125397

P R 181555Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1986

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY CURACAO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL

SUBJECT: SPEECH FROM THRONE - 1973

1. SUMMARY. SPEECH FROM THE THRONE, WHICH OPENED
PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 18 AND WAS FIRST PREPARED BY NEW
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LEFT-WING GOVERNMENT, WAS PRIMARILY DOMESTIC IN EMPHASIS.

IN BRIEF FOREIGN AFFAIRS -DEFENSE SECTIONS (COMPLETE TEXT SEPTEL), QUEEN SAID GON WOULD WORK FOR MORE DEMOCRATIC EC WITH WIDE POWERS, TRULY DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE AND ACTIVE THIRD WORLD POLICY. GON HOPES CSCE AND MBFR WILL RESULT IN FIRM AGREEMENTS FACILITATING FREER MOVEMENT AND DETENTE AND BELIEVES "INTENSIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN US AND EUROPE ON THEIR FUTURE COOPERATION" IS NECESSARY. GON WILL ATTEMPT TO STIMULATE DETENTE DISCUSSION WITHIN NATO AND ALSO WORK TO ENSURE "HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED THROUGHOUT AREA COVERED BY NATO TREATY." QUEEN NOTED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN RETENTION OF ALL TASKS OF DUTCH ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENT'S RECENT PROPOSAL FOR BETTER DIVISION OF LABOR AMONG NATO MEMBER STATES. QUEEN ANNOUNCED GON'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUDGET FOR 1974 HAS BEEN INCREASED BY 20 PERCENT AND THAT GON INTENDS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ON REALM AFFAIRS, GON EXPECTS TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH SURINAM AND ANTILLES IN 1974 ON HOW AND WHEN REALM TERRITORIES WILL ACQUIRE INDEPENDENCE. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, GOVERNMENT REGARDS INTRODUCTION OF SELECTIVE INVESTMENT REGULATIONS AS BEGINNING OF A SYSTEM OF MEASURING INVESTMENT AGAINST ITS IMPORTANCE TO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE AND WILL BE REVIEWING QUESTION OF INDUSTRIAL MERGERS WITH VIEW TOWARD LEGISLATION PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT FOREIGN TAKE-OVERS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRINCE'S DAY SPEECH WHICH OPENED PARLIAMENT SEPTEMBER 18, QUEEN NOTED THAT DESPITE WIDESCALE PROSPERITY THERE WAS INCREASING SENSE OF "UNEASINESS, FOREBODING AND ALIENATION" IN DUTCH SOCIETY. SHE SAID ATTENTION MUST NOW TURN TO AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED, I.E. INDIVIDUAL EQUALITY, INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, AND ENVIRONMENT. QUEEN EMPHASIZED GOVERNMENT'S GOALS WERE TO (A) CURB INFLATION, (B) REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, (C) LESSEN INEQUALITY AND DEPRIVATION. QUEEN ANNOUNCED INCREASED EXPENDITURES IN SOCIAL AREA AND PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE DUTCH EDUCATIONAL, JUDICIAL AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS. IN HOUSING AREA GOVT PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

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INDUSTRY WHILE PRESERVING CHARACTER OF TOWNS AND CITIES. GOVT WILL INTRODUCE MEASURES MAKING CURRENT VALUE BASIS FOR VALUATION IN ANY COMPULSORY LAND PURCHASES AND GIVING GOVERNMENT FIRST OPTION IN ANY LAND SALES.

3. QUEEN STRESSED NEW GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN WITH ENVIRONMENT AND ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MEASURES AIMED AT MAKING OWNERSHIP AND USE OF PRIVATE AUTOS LESS

ATTRACTIVE. GOVERNMENT MAY SUBSIDIZE PRIVATE INDUSTRY'S AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS AND WILL ENCOURAGE RECYCLING, ETC. SELECTIVE INVESTMENT LEVY WAS PUT IN ENVIRONMENT CONTEXT AND QUEEN NOTED IT WAS BEGINNING IN EFFORT TO GAUGE WHETHER NEW INVESTMENT REALLY WORTHWHILE IN TERMS NEEDS OF WHOLE SOCIETY.

4. QUEEN SAID GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED RECENT GUILDER REVALUATION AS ESSENTIAL PART OF ITS ANTI-INFLATION POLICY. GOVERNMENT WILL, HOWEVER, COMPENSATE THOSE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY REVALUATION, PRIMARILY THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. GOVERNMENT TAX INCREASES PROPOSED ARE DESIGNED TO AVOID DIRECTLY RAISING PRICE LEVELS. THUS THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN VAT. THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE INCREASES IN GASOLINE, WEALTH AND INHERITANCE TAXES. A STUDY ON WHETHER CAPITAL GAINS TAXES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED WAS PROMISED BY MID-1974. A SPECIAL TAX ALLOWANCE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WILL BE INTRODUCED. THE GOVERNMENT WILL OFFER PROPOSALS FOR CONTROL OF PROFESSIONAL INCOMES AND PROMISED A COMPREHENSIVE BILL ON INCOMES POLICY LATER IN THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE COALITION'S COMMITMENT TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN DUTCH SOCIETY, QUEEN'S SPEECH, FIRST PREPARED BY DEN UYL GOVT, IS HARDLY A REVOLUTIONARY MANIFESTO. IT PROPOSES OR PROMISES A VARIETY OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO MOVE DUTCH SOCIETY IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. THE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THIS PROCESS REQUIRES TIME AND POLITICAL REALITIES IMPOSE SEVERE LIMITS ON WHAT THE COALITION CAN ACCOMPLISH AND HOW QUICKLY. THUS THE QUEEN'S SPEECH REFLECTS FUNDAMENTAL CAUTION AND REALISM WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE
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SINCE IT ASSUMED OFFICE IN MAY. FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION, EXCEPT FOR PROMISE OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IS PERFUNCTORY AND REITERATES WELL KNOWN DUTCH POSITIONS. DEFENSE PARAGRAPH SUGGESTS GOVT STILL INTENT ON DEFENSE ECONOMIES BUT UNCERTAIN ON EXACTLY HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM.

6. IN TERMS DOMESTIC POLITICS, TAX INCREASES PROPOSED, AIMED PRIMARILY AT HIGHER INCOME BRACKETS (EXCEPT FOR GASOLINE LEVY WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE UNIVERSAL IRRITANT), WILL ANGER LIBERALS BUT SHOULD NOT GIVE ARP OR KVP TOO MUCH TROUBLE. INDEED PROMISES OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND SELF-EMPLOYED ARE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO MAKE CONTINUED RELIGIOUS PARTY SUPPORT OF THE COALITION MORE PALATABLE. DESPITE

FASHIONABLE ALLUSIONS TO INCREASING "ALIENTATION" IN
DUTCH SOCIETY AND EMPHASIS ON ENVIRONMENT AND CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, SPEECH MAY DISAPPOINT
EXTREME LEFT WITHIN LABOR PARTY AND RADICALS WHO WILL
CONSIDER IT TOO TEMPERATE. PM DEN UYL WILL DISCUSS
SPEECH ON TELEVISION THIS EVENING. WE SHALL BE REPORTING
HIS COMMENTS AS WELL AS DOMESTIC POLITICAL REACTION IN A
SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. END COMMENT.
TANGUY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA04098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730926/aaaaasvs.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEECH FROM THRONE - 1973
TAGS: PINT, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005